The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

WE PLEDGE— 1 BILLION DOLLARS IN WAR SAVINGS BONDS FOR VICTORY

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WHOLE NO. 1654 WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1942 GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer VOL. 32, NO. 51

FACING *the* FACTS

With PHILIP PEARL

After the war—what?

We found one answer to that all-important question the other day at the Labor For Victory broadcast in which the American Federation of Labor saluted the TVA.

We heard David Lilienthal, head of the TVA, and Samuel Roper, chairman of the Tennessee Valley Trades and Labor Council, tell about all the wonderful things the TVA has accomplished for the valley—for farmers and industry in the Tennessee Valley. We heard them relate the remarkable contributions the TVA has made to the nation's war production effort. And we began to wonder whether the post-war answer to the challenge of producing for peace might not be more TVA's.

That thought brought us smack up against the remark made by William P. Witherow, retiring president of the National Association of Manufacturers, to the effect that we are not fighting this war "to build more TVA's on the Danube."

We didn't quarrel with that statement, but we ventured to suggest over the radio that it might well be worthwhile for such nations as China and India to build TVA's for their people when they are faced with the problem of post-war rehabilitation.

Not Waiting For Handout

Well, we found out right away that we were a bit late with that suggestion. Experts from China and Russia and other countries already have visited the TVA and made careful inspections of its operations with a view to inaugurating such projects in their own lands when peace comes.

To our way of thinking, that puts Mr. Witherow in his place with a bang. It illustrates quite effectively the insufferable smugness of some of our selfimportant industrialists who think the people of other lands have no initiative and are only waiting for us to give them a handout.

No, we won't have to build TVA's on the Danube or the Yangtze or other foreign rivers after the war is over. The people of those countries will be only too glad to do it themselves. They are quicker to recognize a good thing than many American business men who are now suffering—and have been suffering for the past ten years—from the worst case of the jitters economic experts ever have encountered.

They're afraid of TVA and all it stands for because it demonstrates the kind of progress that private industry has failed dismally to achieve on its own initiative when times were slack. They're afraid of it because they lack imagination and drive and are blinded by fears and misgivings.

Instead of cursing "that man in the White House," it would be a good idea for American businessmen to wake up to their post-war opportunities now and begin planning TVA's on their own account.

New Business Leadership

Even though some of the rut-imprisoned industrial barons will try to continue business along the same old lines after the war, we look for a big change. Men like Henry J. Kaiser and Andrew J. Higgins will not be content to do things in the same old way. They will not be satisfied with small potatoes. The war has taught them to think in broad terms, to break the fetters of tradition, to seek out new methods and new industrial worlds to conquer. Instead of the Government having to show business the way, these leaders of industry will show Government the way out of our economic straitjacket.

The outlook is particularly promising because men like Kaiser and Higgins have no fear of dealing on cooperative terms with labor. They have learned that it pays dividends not to fight organization of their workers but to encourage it. That, of course, is one of the basic reasons for the TVA's success.

Those who worry about the future of private business in our economy can get rid of their nightmares by the simple process of living up to their social responsibilities. The day is past when business can prosper on a one-way street. It's got to give as well as take in order to get along in the new world. It can no longer concern itself only with profits. It must take into account the welfare of the community and the nation it serves.

We use the TVA here merely as a symbol. We don't believe the answer to all our economic ills is in the development of new hydro-electric projects. But we do believe—and very earnestly—that private business must develop a broader social consciousness and help itself by helping others. By doing this private industry and private profit will not only survive but expand far beyond any past limits in the days to come.

Labor Press Exempted From Cuts In Newsprint Consumption By WPB

But Labor Publications Will Offer Voluntary Program To Save Paper

Washington, D. C.—The Labor Press will be exempted from newsprint curtailment orders issued by the War Production Board on the recommendations of the Printing and Publishing Division, on which labor is not represented, but it will undertake voluntary restriction of newsprint consumption in order to give patriotic cooperation to the Government and tempts to combat shortages.

These decisions resulted from a series of conferences held by labor representatives with WPB officials.

Exemption of labor publications from the orders that will affect daily and weekly newspapers of general circulation was made in the following memorandum of agreement between William G. Chandler, director of the WPB Printing and Publishing Division, and David S. Schick, of the WPB Labor Production Division:

"There will be included in the general conservation order, to be promulgated by the Printing and Publishing Division, the following clauses:

"'Newspaper' shall include any publication usually considered as a newspaper in the newspaper industry regardless of the frequency of issuance. It shall not include any publication authorized to be admitted to the mails as second-class matter under the provisions of Section 231, Postal Laws and Regulations of 1940 (Title 39, U.S.C., Section 229), pertaining to the publications of benevolent, fraternal, trades union, professional, literary, historical, and scientific societies, and such publications as are not so authorized which are substantially similar thereto."

"The proposed order also shall include a clause exempting from all provisions of the order all newspapers using 25 tons of newsprint or less a quarter.

Inasmuch as it is estimated that 25 tons of newsprint a quarter will permit a circulation of 48,000 copies weekly to an eight-page tabloid newspaper, this clause will cover general labor papers.

This agreement followed conferences in which the labor press was represented by Philip Pearl, for the AFL publications; Len De Caux, for the publications of the CIO, and Reuben Levin, for railroad labor.

The following memorandum incorporates the pledge of the labor press to cooperate with the conservation program on a voluntary basis:

"The other newspaper publishers are to prepare, through Messrs. De Caux, Levin, and Pearl, a voluntary program for conservation of newsprint by the labor press in order that the labor press may, along with the other sections of the newspaper industry, make its proper contribution to the conservation of the nation's newsprint.

"The Labor Production Division shall be kept advised of, and consulted with, on all proposals for future orders or amendments to existing orders affecting newspapers."

The AFL labor press is urged to submit to Mr. Pearl as soon as possible any plans deemed feasible for the voluntary curtailment of newsprint consumption. It might be well to mention that a technical committee is now working on plans to save paper through the reduction of margins and other waste-eliminating devices.

War Worker With Six Sons In Uniform To Be Hailed On AFL Broadcast

Washington, D. C.—The six million AFL members are not only working like beavers to help win the war but many of them are sending their sons and loved ones to fight for Uncle Sam on the battlefronts of the world.

In their honor, the AFL will salute on its next "Labor For Victory" broadcast on Jan. 7 a soldier of production who has six sons in the armed forces. He is employed himself in the Washington Navy Yard.

Be sure to listen to his inspiring story.

On the same program, AFL Secretary-Treasurer George Meany will deliver a New Year message to the men and women of labor.

Don't miss this extraordinary broadcast. Tune in at 1:15 P.M., Eastern War Time, on your local NBC station.

Christmas Greetings!

This Christmas, which finds us at war, does not find Americans discouraged over the prospects for the future. Despite the sufferings and sacrifices which circumstances have forced upon us, despite the fact that millions of our young men are risking their lives against the enemy, we still keep our heads high and our faith intact—our faith in God, in peace to come and in good will toward man.

Yes, we are engaged in a desperate war, but it is a holy war, a war to protect mankind from cruelty and oppression, a war to preserve the highest hopes of religion, of humanity, of the future. Our boys are not giving their lives for conquest or for plunder. They are fighting for peace, they come to the people they have freed from the enemy as ambassadors of good will. They are serving in God's cause.

To them and to the soldiers of production who are backing them up with all their strength on the home front, I offer my heartfelt Christmas greetings and sincere best wishes for a happier and better New Year. All America joins in praying for a speedy victory and the safe return of our boys in uniform.

WILLIAM GREEN,
President, American Federation of Labor.

Green, Roosevelt Plan AFL Aid For Infantile Paralysis Victims

AFL Chief Pledges Full Support To Raise Funds For Annual Campaign

Washington, D. C.—The American Federation of Labor has pledged its full support to the annual fund raising appeal of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, Basil O'Connor, president of the Foundation, announced. The drive starts January 15 and climaxes with the celebration of President Roosevelt's birthday on Saturday, January 30.

The pledge of support was made in a letter sent to the President by William Green, president of the AFL. Expressing gratification over labor's support, President Roosevelt replied that, engrossed as the nation is in fighting the war, no let-up could be permitted in the war against disease.

Mr. O'Connor pointed out that this year, for the first time since the public celebrations of the President's birthdays began ten years ago, the fund raising appeal will have a national labor division established directly at its campaign headquarters, 342 Madison Avenue, New York City. The labor division will be headed by Mr. Green and CIO President Murray as chairmen, with Emil Rosenberg executive director.

Mr. Green wrote President Roosevelt:

"It has always been a pleasure for the American Federation of Labor to give its wholehearted support to the nationwide campaign to fight infantile paralysis. I am sure that the men and women of our affiliated organizations, aware of your personal interest in this fight, will be happy to respond generously to make this year's campaign an outstanding success.

"We realize that the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis has been carrying on splendid work. In no way must we allow its great efforts to be halted or neglected, especially in time of war."

President Roosevelt wrote Mr. Green:

"Engrossed as we are in our all-out effort to win this war, we must find time to wage another war, the war against disease, especially epidemic disease, which may strike anybody, any time, anywhere. No let-up can be permitted."

"Labor's active participation in a cause which is so close to my heart has always been noteworthy, and I certainly was grateful that the men and women of your affiliated organizations will endeavor to make this year's fund-raising drive an outstanding success."

Social Gains Must Be Protected, Green Tells Sheet Metal Workers

Cincinnati.—Organized labor will fight with all its strength against arbitrary freezing of men to jobs and against attempts during the war to lower standards of living.

That pledge was voiced by President William Green of the AFL in an address to the convention of the Sheet Metal Workers' International Association at the Netherland Plaza Hotel here.

The convention, biggest in the history of the organization, was called to order by President Robert Byron, with nearly 800 delegates at hand from 37 states of the United States and Canada.

Mr. Green, who gave the principal talk of the opening session, condemned shackling of workers to their jobs as "totalitarian, not a democratic method.

America still has a large pool of available labor for war plants and "the resources of womanpower have hardly been touched," he said. Such resources should be fully tapped before there is any talk of compulsion, he declared.

Furthermore, before any local freeze plans are agreed to, provision should be made for adjustment of log wage levels and elimination of substandard conditions, he insisted.

Mr. Green also denounced the clamor raised by newspapers and Tory members of Congress for suspension of the 40-hour safeguards and other labor legislation.

The AFL chieftain said labor would "never surrender" to demands for emasculation of laws protecting workers.

"We are determined that the social and economic gains which we have struggled many years shall remain on the statute books," he declared.

Shishkin Urges Unified Agencies To Use Small Plants On War Work

Washington, D. C. — Full war mobilization of small and medium-sized industries of the nation must be achieved without an early realignment and unification of production and procurement of the Federal government, Boris Shishkin, economist of the American Federation of Labor, testified before the Senate Committee on Small Business.

He urged "the creation of an overall military-civilian board of strategy empowered to determine policies guiding all war administrative agencies in the operations of all war activities of the nation."

Appearing as the representative of President Green, Mr. Shishkin said the most urgently needed remedies include:

(1) Clarification of production requirements dictated by war strategy, in a comprehensive requirements program, realistic and flexible enough to meet the changing conditions of the war, yet stable enough to establish firm production goals.

(2) Speedier effectuation of the controlled materials plan to meet production goals now placed on the "must" list by the demands of war.

(3) Review of the war transportation program and its intimate coordination with all phases of war administration as well as essential civilian production and distribution.

(4) Centralization of responsibility for all procurement in the hands of the chairman of the War Production Board, who would become the Administrator of War Supplies for the armed forces.

(5) Assurance that the application of limitation and curtailment orders reducing or stopping production is followed directly by wholesale facilitating conversion of plant facilities and labor to war employment.

(6) Strengthening of the Smaller War Plants Division of the War Production Board and of the Smaller War Plants Corporation to enable it to carry out a comprehensive subcontracting program.

UNION PAYS 10 PER CENT OF WAGES FOR WAR BONDS

Washington, D. C.—AFL Secretary-Treasurer George Meany was informed by President William Dixon of Envelope Makers Federal Union No. 20213, Dayton, Ohio, that through the joint effort of the union and the International Envelope Corporation, 99.1 per cent of the union's membership subscribed 10.6 per cent of their weekly earnings for war bonds. "This is full evidence that labor and management can achieve the common goal when they unite their strength," Dixon said.

News Briefs

LABOR AUXILIARIES JOIN WAAC RECRUITING DRIVE

The National Women's Trade Union League and the American Federation of Women's Auxiliaries of Labor have joined with other women's organizations to assist in a national recruiting campaign for the WAAC to enable that branch of the service to obtain the 150,000 strength recently authorized by executive order of President Roosevelt.

Together with 32 other organizations, including the National Council of Negro Women, Inc., the labor groups will function through the Advisory Council of the Women's Interests Section, Bureau of Public Relations, War Department. Announcement of the program was made by Mrs. Emily Newell Blair, chief of the Women's Interest Section, at the Fourth Service Command regional conference of the Advisory Council in Atlanta, Ga., recently.

BLOOD DONATIONS MADE BY WOMEN BUS DRIVERS

Los Angeles, Calif.—Thirty women members of Local 1277 (Transit Employees) have donated blood at the local Red Cross Blood Donor Center, W. A. Kelleher, secretary of the local, reports. All of the donors are regularly employed as chauffeurs by the Lander Transit Company, which supplied a bus to transport the group. Arrangements for the donation were made by Manya Hale, union stewardess.

SHEFFIELD UNIONS BUY $664,677 WAR BONDS

Washington, D. C.—Mildred Jarrett, recording secretary of Tri-Cities Central Labor Union, Sheffield, Ala., reported to AFL Secretary-Treasurer George Meany that unions in the AFL affiliated local unions and their members purchased $664,677.50 worth of war bonds.

VICTORY PRODUCTION CELEBRATED BY CAMDEN

Camden, N. J.—American Federation of Labor unions played a key role in this city's week-long "Production for Victory" ceremony to commemorate Pearl Harbor.

The week of rallies, meetings, parades and banquets was directed by nine Labor-Management Committees of the city and a dozen labor leaders, aided by the Labor Production Division of the War Production Board.

But the key figures in the celebration were the workers—the mechanics and the craftsmen who turn out the supplies for our soldiers and sailors. The city joined with them, schools, children and corps of service men taking part.

LEON HENDERSON QUITS JOB OF PRICE FIXING

Washington, D. C.—Price Administrator Leon Henderson resigned and may soon be succeeded by Senator Prentiss Brown (Dem., Mich.), who was defeated for re-election.

Henderson has been criticized by labor for cracking down on wage increases while pursuing a timid policy on rationing and price control.

WAR LABOR BOARD PLANS SPECIAL SPEED-UP UNITS

Washington, D. C.—Faced by a terrific log jam of cases, the National War Labor Board is to extensive "farming out" of its work.

Cases before the board itself have risen to the 2,000 mark, chairman Davis reports, while those before regional branches, and only 396 of these have been closed, a W.L.B. report showed.

Among steps to relieve the bottleneck will be the creation of special commissions for various industries and areas, functioning as "little War Labor Boards."

BOOK AID FOR ARMY-NAVY UNITS STARTS JANUARY 5

New York City.—The 1943 Victory Book Campaign, the second annual drive for the collection of books for men in all branches of the service, will get under way officially on Jan. 5 and will be carried on in industry across the United States up to and including March 8, 1943.

The drive this year will operate on a huge cooperative basis enlisting the support and active participation of all large organized groups in the country. Among them are women's clubs and organizations; social service groups and industry associations; educational associations; professional, labor and agricultural organizations; and agencies with widespread distributive facilities such as retail, bread and transportation companies.

William Green, AFL president, is a member of the Advisory Board connecting the campaign.

Wage Boost of $260,000,000 Voted By Congress To Govt. Employes

Unanimous Action Helps Low-Paid Group Hit Hard By High Living Costs

Washington, D. C.—Just before adjournment, Congress unanimously voted a $260,000,000 bonus to the civilian employes of the Federal Government, who have been hit harder by inflationary living costs than any other group.

Workers who get $2,900 or under and are paid on a yearly basis will get overtime or a 10 per cent increase. Those who get over $2,900 will be paid overtime or a 10 per cent increase only on the first $2,900. No increase will be granted that lifts salaries above $5,000.

The Saturday half-holiday is suspended for the duration, but employes who work more than 40 hours a week will be paid overtime for the additional hours.

Considering the circumstances under which this victory for workers was won, it was something of a miracle. The lion's share of credit for it goes to Senator James M. Mead (Dem., N. Y.), and Congressman Robert Ramspeck (Dem., Ga.).

For months they worked day and night with the leaders of the government employes' unions for a square deal for Uncle Sam's workers. They fought through committee measures designed to wipe out inequalities and to establish wage scales that would enable the government to retain its experienced employes.

How serious the situation had become is shown by the fact that in September more than 120,000 employes left the service, mainly because their wages were no longer adequate to maintain a decent standard of living.

All of the proposals were blocked by parliamentary maneuvers until late in the session, when both Houses lost their quorums, making it impossible to consider the legislation except by unanimous consent. This avenue was closed because of the opposition of a few labor-haters.

In this crisis, the President stepped in with an appeal that if Congress could not act it should give him power to deal with the matter.

The AFL unions in the government employes field will inaugurate their campaign for further wage adjustments by the incoming Congress with a special "Labor For Victory" broadcast on Jan. 17.

AFL Salutes TVA For War Record And Fine Cooperation With Unions

Washington, D. C.—The American Federation of Labor salutes the Tennessee Valley Authority on a nationwide "Labor For Victory" broadcast on January 7, when we shall tell of the miracles for the war production drive and has established model relations with labor.

David Lilienthal, chairman of the TVA, who was interviewed on the program, declared that the TVA contract with fifteen AFL unions has "real dollar value" and is "worth as much as one of our dams." He said the TVA has worked in close teamwork with these unions since it started operations nine years ago, and added:

"We began a system of management-labor cooperation which has been of great benefit to the TVA, to the men and women working for it, and a benefit to our stockholders, the 130 million people of this country. Of course, we've had differences of opinion from time to time, but through these nine years, in time of peace as well as of war, we've added a single, substantial interruption of production or accidence. I'm very proud of that record."

Samuel Roper, chairman of the Tennessee Valley Trades and Labor Council, which represents the 42,000 workers employed by TVA, declared on the same program that this agency has benefited farmers and employers as well as labor by developing the natural resources of the region to work for the people.

Mr. Lilienthal revealed that most of the war planes built in this country last year and this year could not have been produced without the TVA. He said that half of the aluminum produced in the entire country is made by plants powered by TVA dams. He disclosed that the TVA now operates huge munitions plants and services and Navy arsenals, camps, airfields and war plants in its area which includes parts of seven states with an area the size of Great Britain.

The TVA alone, he said, now produces and uses mostly for the war half as much power as the whole country used in the last war. Also, the TVA improvements have made the Tennessee River a deep-channeled all-year highway carrying quantities of war freight, thus relieving pressure on the railroads and saving rubber our armed forces need. In fact, fighting ships are now being built at yards along the river which, before TVA, was only two feet deep at some times of the year.

Turning to the TVA's relations with labor, Mr. Lilienthal said he does not measure the value of union cooperation solely by the fact that strikes have been eliminated.

"That, after all, is looking at it from a negative side," he explained. "More important is the fact that we've developed responsible and friendly labor relations to the point that cooperation between the labor unions and the TVA on the job is a definite factor in making the operation of the TVA successful. As already mentioned the great help the unions gave in training new workers. Besides that they have helped us to streamline and speed up production processes, to save money by introducing new methods and to solve production problems where the practical everyday experiences of the workers themselves is invaluable. I am proud that the employes and the management of TVA have worked and are now working together, as a team, for the benefit of the entire nation."

Mr. Roper testified that TVA employes are bearing down to help win the war. He pointed to the fact that the U. S. Army and the War Production Board recently gave special citations of merit in production to the TVA workers.

"Our union members in TVA," he said, "know they are building for their own future and are working to speed the day of victory for democracy. They are giving the job everything they've got."

Republican Leaders In Congress Repudiate Plot To Lynch Labor

Washington, D. C.—Proposed alliances between Southern reactionary Democrats and Republicans in the next Congress to lynch labor laws were indignantly rejected by outstanding G.O.P. leaders.

Repudiation of the reprehensible anti-labor bloc suggestions was voiced by Senator Charles L. McNary, Republican floor leader in the Senate, and Representative Richard J. Welch, Republican of California.

"The Republican party," McNary tersely declared, "has never been anti-labor, and any attempt to make it such is certain to fail.

"My party has always favored the highest possible standard of living for workers and their families, which means decent wages and reasonable hours. We are not going to reverse that policy, and you can quote me on that as strongly as you wish."

Equally pointed was the comment of Congressman Welch, who has represented a San Francisco district for almost 20 years, frequently being re-elected without opposition. He insisted the G.O.P. will "never consent to become a tail to the kite of Tory Southern Democrats." He added:

"That would be a very bad policy, and it would also be fatal to our hope of success in future elections. The Republicans never won an election when they did not have the support of working people. If our party leadership is wise, it will insist that the humanitarian laws passed during the past 50 years not only be maintained, but strengthened."